

THE
Secret History
OF
Arlus and Odolphus,
Ministers of State to the
Empress of *Grandinsula*.

In which are Discover'd the Labour'd
Artifices formerly us'd for the Removal of
Arlus, and the true Causes of his late Re-
storation, upon the Dismission of Odol-
phus and the Quinquivirate.

Humbly offer'd to those Good People of
Grandinsula, who have not yet done won-
dering, why that PRINCESS won'd Change
so Notable a Ministry.

In nova fert animus mutatas dicere Formas
Corpora

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A Word with the Reader.

This History being Writ originally by a Native of Grandinsula, in the Language of that Country, and design'd only for the Use and Information of its Inhabitants, you are desired not to be surpriz'd, if it falls immediately upon the Business in hand, without giving you the least Account of the Clime, Soil, Government, Prince, or People of that strange Island. Therefore if upon Perusal of the Title-page you find your self in the Dark, whisper the first Honest Gentleman you meet (whom you will now easily distinguish by a certain new Life in his Looks) and you will be set right in a moment : But, if this Boak's in your Hand, don't enquire at St. James's-Coffee-House, lest you should meet with a surly Answer.

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IS now about Seventy Years, since one Half of our Grandfathers first buckl'd on Their rusty Armour against t'other, for the Good of their King, and their Country; such was the original Pretence on both sides, but our Histories make no mention (when one of those Sides got uppermost) that either their King or their Country were the better for it: However the same loyal Dispute seems to be intall'd on their Posterity, only with this Difference, that They back'd their Arguments with Blows, and We that have more Wit, only Rail, and call Names, or (if we can write) shew our Courage and Conduct by spilling our Parts upon Paper: And while there are such unfortunate Words in our Language, as *Hereditary, Limited, Resistance, Passive, Agrarian Laws, High Boys, Low Church, No Church, &c.* I don't see why our Neighbours may not think us a very merry People for t'other thirty Years of the Hundred to come. I know not whether my being a little more serious upon the matter will convince either Side, that while they so tenaciously keep up their Distinction of Parties, they embarrass and restrain perhaps the most Uncorrupt Ministers in their honest Endeavours for the common Interest: But 'tis certain this ferment-ed Folly is so prevalent, that now no Statesmen can propose to support themselves, that are not openly at the Head of a Party, in defence of whose principles

Principles they must declare themselves resolv'd to stand or fall : And what makes their Game more difficult, is, that in spite of their utmost Prudence or Fidelity, different Factions will take their separate Shelters under them ; which Monsters, when they are the least heated, naturally throw the Venom of their equally detested Principles on their innocent and perhaps unwilling Protectors.

The nearest Friends of *Odolphus* will be apt to allow this Truth, it being the only seeming Loop-hole through which an Excuse can be convey'd for his shrewdly suspicious procuring an Edict call'd *An Act of security*, &c. which put Swords into the Hands of many of the Empress's Back-Friends at home, to be ready (*in case they had a mind to it*) to oppose her expected Enemies from abroad.

This bold Stroke of *Odolphus* so naturally rous'd the Loyal Party against him, that we must not wonder if they lost all Temper, from their just Apprehension of the Consequence: Nothing less than calling him to the *Tribunal* wou'd appease them, and his Head was resolv'd the Forfeit of his perfidy! These Measures, however Just, were at that Juncture too precipitately taken to be safely executed, there being then an absolute Necessity of preserving a Union in the Senate, for raising the requisite Funds for an unavoidable War, of which the Ferment of such a prosecution must have too far hazarded the Delay; Besides, the penetrating *Arlus* (whose Resentment and Temper are in utter Subjection to his Judgment

ment) too well knew the Frighted *Odolphus*, under such impending Danger, wou'd soon bring his principles to drop the *Loyalists*, (whom he then pretended to Head) and call in the *Levelers* to sustain him: He that cou'd delude his Minstrels into the Passing so *Infidious* a Law, *Arlus* foresaw wou'd not want new Friends or Interest to give it what Colour of Integrity he pleas'd, to the Disappointment of his Accusers; or to make sure Work, might bury it under a General Pardon for ever. For which Reasons he thought it proper to pause on the Resentful Resolutions of the *Loyalists*; and when he found no Arguments cou'd dislade them from so Hazardous, and Unseasonable an Attempt, he rather chose to lye under the pain of their Suspicion, for a Season, by discountenancing their Measures, than, by an unprofitable Proof of his Fidelity to their Interest, joyn in so palpable a Risque of ruining it for ever.

We may believe of Course the *Loyalists* were not a little Disgusted at *Arlus's* not espousing their Quarrel, which from the sure and speedy Counter-measures of *Odolphus* they were soon oblig'd to drop; some from their Just Opinion of *Arlus's* Judgment allowing their Error, and others of less Temper reviling him as the Betrayer of his Friends, and party. But Time has since blown over that Cloud, and prov'd him the Sincere, the Indefatigable Friend, and Bulwark, of their *Cause* and *Interest*. *The*

The Subtile *Odolphus* then perceiving the Attack intended against him, was (as *Arlus* foret w) under no long Debate, what Course he should take to secure himself: He knew the restless Ambition of the *Levellers* had kept 'em long gaping in a parching Thirst of Government; he knew that power was their God, and profit their Religion, for whose dear Support their pliant principles wou'd on this Occasion allow them to Conform: Upon which he immediately shew open the Doors of preferment, and let in their whole Faction, every Man to pick and Chase for himself; some pleas'd their pride, and took what we call a Feather, others thought their Reign was to last for ever, and judg'd the best Income the best post; but the Merry and Wise humbly contented themselves with patent places for Life.

Thus surrounded with his New Friends the Secure *Odolphus* seem'd to have got a very distant Starke of his Danger, but----

Raro antecedentem scelestum

Deseruit pede Pena slando.

And as 'tis the common policy of Usurpers to begin their Reigns with Lenity, and wholesome Laws, so very little cou'd be charg'd upon their Conduct, till they were thoroughly settled in their posts, and so far *Arlus* went quietly into their Measures, not without foreseeing, that when they were once lull'd into an indolent Confidence of their Security, they wou'd soon break out into all the Insolence of uncontested power

power and plainly prove themselves (what they have publickly own'd they wou'd Dethrone the Empress for attempting to be) Rulers of Unlimited Sway-----An Ambition, which only in themselves was pardonable; but such has ever been the Folly of Mankind.

*Cælum ipsum petimus Stultitiam: neque
Per nostrum patimur scelus
Iracunda Jovem ponere Fulmina.*

'Twill be here necessary to inform you, that what made *Odolphus's* Project of Joyning the *Levellers* more practicable, was, his Ancient, and Firm Alliance with *Fortunatus*, which they had solemnly Seal'd with the Union of their Families: How far their Personable Inclinations might contribute to their Friendship I can't determine, but they were both Wile enough to know, that as they had the Greatest Posts in the Government, (and those so immediately Useful to one another) they were the only Men, between whom a Right Understanding was absolutely Necessary for the Mutual Support of their Interest, or Ambition: For as *Odolphus* was Lord High Keeper of the Treasure, (for which sort of Trash the Provident Commander had from his Youth an irresistible *Tendre*) he knew, while he had the unaccounted Disposal of it, he shou'd always keep him firm to his Interest; so on the other Hand *Fortunatus*, having the sole Conduct of the War, wisely consider'd, that if he did not Husband it well,

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well, there wou'd be no farther Occasion for the Annual Effusion of Taxes, nor Pretence for the sweet Article of Secret Service in the Accounts of *Odolphus*; so that we are not to wonder, if our first Advantagious Offers of Peace after the Battle of *Aramilia* were privately sunk, and could not (ev'n with the Empresses Direction) be brought to a Treaty (of which Fact I shall anon speak more at large) Nor is it more surprizing, when they cou'd not avoid coming to the last Years Treaty, that *Odolphus* directed his Party to Address the Empress, that *Fortunatus* might immediately be dispatch'd with full Power, if he thought fit----to break it off.

I must confess, when we consider the natural Frailty of Mankind, we shou'd not wonder if a Man of the most *Liberal Spirit*, under the strong Temptation of such Immense Advantages from the War, shou'd be a little Cool in his Endeavours to procure a Lasting Peace. But from one, whom even his Friends allow of so *Contrary* a Disposition, ('twou'd seem hard to give it its right Name) what can the most favourable Judgment, or shortest Insight hope? Can we expect Health of Virtue from a Consumptive Mind? That so Insatiable a Passion shou'd refuse its natural Food, to Starve on the thin Diet of an airy praise, while it gains even Increase of Appetue from Feeding? Are we to treat that Vice in every other man with suspicio, Ill wishes, and contemp, and

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and think it not only Pardonable, but Worthy of the Highest Trust in him? Twou'd look like taking pleasure in the Insult to continue this Argument, that is so unequally Superior to any Force of Truth, that can be urg'd against it, I shall therefore quit the Orator for the Historian, and let Matters of Fact make their own uncommended Impressions— But I beg pardon, I must first ask leave to take up a seeming Objection, that I left behind me, which may be (if what is urg'd were true) what cou'd engage him to be so sincere in his many signal Victories o'er our Enemies? from the least of which we concluded a Peace was unavoidable?— Right! we concluded so, but we concluded wrong; he perhaps saw farther; the War, we find, has made a shift to out-live our Hopes of it, which 'tis possible we may in some Measure owe to his prudent Conduct, of laying the Cause of the War in one Country, and the Seat of it in another, where our Conquests have got us more Honour, than Profit; And (no Dispraise to our Prowess) I am afraid that is not altogether the Glory of our Country: The Command of an Army in the Country where our Enemy has been able to lose so many Battles, has been always look'd on as Provision for Life even of the most Victorious Generals. Let them be never so successful they are sure not to fight themselves out of their Posts, unless they are too rash in exposing their Persons: There's a Barrier of stubborn Towns will find Work enough for the Wildest of 'em, and they may hold their Commissions there by a double Tenure, not only that of a Quamdiū, but even a *Quanquam se bene gesserint.*

Now in the Country we are Fighting For the Case alters extreamly; An Army, half as well Provided There, might have ended our Businels, before a Man could have half done his own. Which I hope won't be thought an unreasonable Position, since we find that the very Poor One we have there, under the Conduct of a Man, whose Youth yet knows no better, then preferring his Honour to his Interest, has at last given the Enemy a Blow, from which we have as much Reasen to Hope, as from any they have yet receiv'd, the Glorious Prize we have been fighting for.— But farther,

Supposing our repeated Successes in the other Country cou'd possibly have ended the War on that Side, have no Counter-steps been made even *there*, that might mislead us to think *Fortunatus* was himself in some Apprehension it wou'd have ended there? Was the last Years Bloody Battle so well Concerted, as it might have been? Was it so absolutely necessary to stay two Days within Sight of the Enemy, for a few Troops that never Engag'd when they came, and give 'em so much Time to throw up such unequal Fortress before we attack'd them? Was ever Battle in the Memory of Man fought under such Tremendous and Avoidable Disadvantages? Might not one think too he look'd on *Argilius* as the rising Favourite of Fame, and sent him on rather as a Sacrifice than a Soldier, tho' the more Merciful Hand of Providence preserv'd, and brought him back the Victorious and Intrepit Rival of his Glory? Did the utmost Success we cou'd hope for promise us an Equivalent to the Tithe of the Bloody Price we were sure to pay for it? Never, I grant, in all the Wars of immemo-rial Time, was there a Battle fought, where mortal Men gain'd such immortal and unprofitable Honour. — And how far the honest View of Peace might be consider'd in such an Attempt, is submitted to the Breast of every impartial Reader. — Here I must beg leave to return from this Excursion to the fore mentioned Particulars of the secret Causes of our first Offers of Peace being smother'd after the Battle of *Aramilia*.

Arlus, who was then Chief Secretary, &c. having soon after receiv'd from a Minister of our chief Allies such full Conditions of Peace propos'd to them from our Grand Enemy, as wou'd have wholly answer'd the End of our War, immediately communicated them to *Fortunatus* and *Odolpus*: But the cold Reception they gave them exceeded even his Suspicion of their Integrity; all he could urge could not rale them to consider 'em more than meer artificial Amusements of the Enemy, of no Solidity or Signification; and as such, with an over-bearing Air of their superior Penetration, they wholly neglected them: This was enough to convince the vigilant *Arlus*, that the Hurry of their own unfinish'd Fortunes would as yet give them but little Leis-ure

ture to attend the remoter Service of their Country, which he, having nothing more at heart, resolv'd, at the hazard of breaking with them, to pursue, by offering himself, uncondon'd, the said Proposals to the Empress, whose natural Tenderness of her People's Welfare he knew wou'd incite her to a better Thought of them, which the intire Satisfaction she express'd, upon hearing them, soon confirm'd: For whatever Reasons she might have from her Enemies Artifices in former Treaties to suspect him of Insincerity at this time; yet she now consider'd him as a Prince whole Pride from long Successes had made more impatient of his new Disgrace, as one allarm'd and startle'd at his infil'd Arms, and, at that Juncture, accumulated Blows of Fortune; his Treasure low; his Credit sunk, his People murmur'd, his unpaid Troops dispirited, the Rival of his Grandson's Throne, then just entring his Metropolis; his critical defeat in the South, with the vast Towns and Territories falling from him after the Battle of Aramilia, and these at once surrounding him, might reasonably shake the proudest wise Monarch into a sincere Desire of Peace But if a Suspicion only of his Sincerity must be a standing Reason for our rejecting a Treaty, the War might probably last till only those Great Patriots would find their account in a Peace: Yet when they thought these smo her'd Proposals had secu'r'd them against the Danger of it, they receiv'd, to their great Astonishment, the Empress's Directions to bring them to the speediest Issue. This unforeseen Allarm rous'd 'em immediately into an insuppressible Jealousy of Arlus; they could not bear this Insult of their Pride, this direct Invasion of their Power and Interest with the Empress — And from this Crisis began their first determin'd Resolution to undo him.

But as the former Practices of Odolphus had thrown him into the hands of the Levellers for Protection, so now he durst not enter upon any Measures of moment without their Approbation. Therefore under the Consternation of these unexpected Orders, he hastned to his Directors the Quinquinvirate (a Set of self-chosen Men, that had form'd themselves into a Representative Body of their whole Faction) who after they had taken into consideration the presum-

tuous, uncommission'd Fidelity of *Arlus*, and the constant implicit Compliance of *Odolphus* to their uncontested Power, unanimously.

Resolved, That *Arlus* was an apparant Invader of the Empress's good Opinion and Favour, and had clandestinely endeavour'd to serve his Prince and Country, with an utter Disregard to their more loyal Schemes of easing her Imperial Majesty, by voluntarily taking on themselves the burthensome Fatigue of governing the Nation.

To accomplish which Just and Humble Design, it was farther

Resolv'd, That an immediate Supply of Suggestions, Insinuations, false Arguments, and Pretences not exceeding two Words of Truth, should be given to *Odolphus*, for carrying on their Resentment against *Arlus*, with the utmost Vigour, in order to his speedy Removal from Court, and her Majesty's Presence for ever.

Now this matter requir'd Haste, and *Odolphus* perceiving some of the *Quinquirates* Brains a little slow in paying their Quota's of Invention, ventur'd, upon the Crédit of their Vote, to advance out of his own private Head whatever Insinuations were wanting to the carrying on so necessary a work.

Thus animated with the full power of his Commission, he march'd directly to the Empress, whom approaching (as usual) with an intrepid Respect, he gave to understand, that her Resolution was invested, from which he was not to retire, till he had reduc'd her Reason to surrender to his Discretion. The Empress forewarn'd of his Approach, stood without the least Surprize, or Confusion, to receive him. *Odolphus*, after some little Pauie, seeming half recover'd from a suppress'd Resentment, address'd her to this effect :

It is not with more Surpize, Madam, than Concern, that I find it in any Man's power to supersede the favourable Confidence your Majesty has been pleased to place in my long and constant Endeavours to serve you. Had the late invalid Proposals of Peace been (as they are maliciously represented) worth your Thoughts of a Treaty, from what suspected Action of my Life cou'd your Majesty suppose, I shou'd not have been foremost in advising

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Wising it? —— But my concern, Madam, is not only for my self; the Malice is gone higher, and Fortunatus too is loaded with the same insinuated Crime of clandestinely endeavouring to perpetuate the War. Now, Madam, tho' the secret Ambition of some too near your Majesty's Person had prevail'd to lay Me under the Dishonour of this hard Suspicion, methinks the superioz Judgment, Services, and Merit of Fortunatus might have at least protected Him from so ungrateful an Aspersion —— The Malice must be moze than Human sure, that could render Him suspected. For Me, alas! I can but serbe you with my Vigilance and humble Counsel, — and therefore may be spar'd — But He, whose abler Head and Arm have both so well deservd of you, whose glozious Victories have retriev'd the Nation's Honour, whose Penetration and Address is at once the Life and Cement of your Confederacy, whose Services his grateful Country have confess'd in such profusion of their Bounty, as have fixt him sure above the abject Thought of being at once the Hero and the Merchant of the War — — And that your Majesty should ever be wrought by Arlus, or any other Incendiary, into a staggering Thought of his Integrity, I confess amazes me! — — How can you receive him? With what Concern must he approach you? I own he wants no Sense of Duty, but has an equal Sense of Honour too — — How then can you expect him easp under so injurious a Return for his Fidelity? — What must be the Consequence? — I own, Madam, I am at a loss to serve you. —

Here in some seeming Disorder he broke off, and the Empress, whose natural Humanity inclines her (where there is the least room for it) to be favourable in her Opinion made him this Reply.

My Lord, I need no Argumentes to perswade me into a just Opinion of Fortunatus's Merit or Fidelity, nor I hope have ever given you cause to think your own suspected; and if I have differ'd with Him or you in my Opinion of the Proposals you mention, I see n reason, why it should throw the least Reflection upon either of you.

you. One of our Opinions must be right, perhaps 'tis yours, which had you thought fit to offer me, 'tis possible I might have given up my own. Yet I must tell you, if I now throw these proposals before Fortunatus, and your self ought to take it as an Instance of my implicit Confidence of your Judgment and Fidelity: But if you think that Arlus has secretly endeavour'd to render you suspected, you do him wrong, nor can I be pleas'd to hear any one call'd an Incendiary, whose Services and integrity have so well deserv'd my Favour and Distinction. These Jealousies among your selves, my Lord, must render me unsafe: For the Sincerity of Arlus I'll stand my self engag'd, and think I may for yours— See him, my Lord, on this Occasion: — Comply so far with me — Suspend your Suspicions, And I doubt not when you meet you will yet preserve the usual Harmony in your Councils, that has made this Island terrible to its Enemies: For 'tis strange that Men of your Wisdom, who equally intend your Prince and Country's Service, should so unaccountably differ on the means of doing it — Pray consider of it.

This steady and unexpected Declaration in favour of Arlus now more confirm'd Vaughan in the necessity of making his utmost and immediate Effort to unhinge him, when drawing up his solemn Features into an Air of inflexible Resolution, he thus proceeded:

The Union of your Ministers, Madam, is of such essential Consequence to your Interest that it admits indeed of no Delay to establish it: But I must needs say we are unfortunate, that your Majesty should, at this time, so widely differ with your people in your Opinion of Arlus — 'Tis not this his last Insinuation only, but his many other secret attempts to obstruct their warmest Measures in your Service, that have long disturb'd their Councils. — To speak plainly, Madam, he is obnoxious to them. — How indeed can I longer think my self safe or answer for their usual Zeal and Submission, while he is continued in his Office, or so near your Majesty's person; and not only from my own, but their greater Uneasiness, I am press'd to make this close Remonstrance. — Madam, his Removal or mine is unavoidable: For your Majesty cannot but know my power of serving you utterly depends on their Support, and this Staff without them would be a use-

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useless Crispe in my Hand. Therefore since I have won it hitherto with Honour, I must beg leave, when I am no longer sure of Friends to follow it, to lay it at your Majestys Feet.

This plain-dealing Speech, tho' it had more the Stile of a menacing Ambassador, than a Subject, did not however make the Empress so far lose her Natural Clemency of Temper, as yet to take the just Advantage of this Offer, which she well knew he must repent of; she therefore told him, if he expected she should answer him as his Sovereign, she found her self oblig'd to accept of his surrender'd Staff, and which she would immediately take, if he still insisted on the Removal of *Arlus*: But as she was his Friend too, she advis'd him to a second Thought, and, with an affable Smile, half insisted on his keeping it, till she shou'd think his Resigning it more Necessary to her Service — and then retir'd.

Odolphus thus unsuccessful in his Expedition went himself Expels with the News of his Defeat to the *Quirquinovites*, to whom he recited the full particulars of the Action, not forgetting his narrow Escape in recovering his Staff, which in the heat of his Courage was once quite out of his Hand: But those undaunted Patriots resolving never to admit of any Terms, but the Unconditional Surrender of *Arlus* to their Mercy, immediately voted the Siege to be renew'd, and that the Trumpet of their Power, the Lady *Hautifara* shou'd be dispatch'd to summon the Empress's Compliance, upon refusal of which the Irresistible *Fortunatus* had Orders to, &c.

Before I recite what pass'd between the Empress and *Hautifara*, it will be necessary to give some short sketch of that Lady's Temper, lest upon reading those particulars, you shou'd think her more distracted, than she really is: To say the worst of her then at once, She is one of those Unhappy Women to whom Good Fortune is insupportable, and, had she never succeeded to more than she was Born to, might have made a much better Figure in a private Family, than her Exaltation will in History. But it has been her Misfortune from a *Tedious Possession* of her Mistress's Favour, to be Intoxicated with Pride, Power and Profit, the Spirit of which, is visible in every Limb of her, whenever she puts her self into motion; and I appeal to those honest Holy-day Gentlewomen, who think it no Disgrace on a Sunday to climb a

Table behind the Tall Guards for a Sight of their Sovereign, if they have not seen this same Lady come saunt'ring alone, before the Ceremony from Church, with her nose in the Air, her Eyes unthinkingly fix'd upon nothing, negligently searching her pocket for Sweetmeats, as if it were a wrong to her Grandeur to regard that vulgar Reserve of Motion, which the Natural Modesty of the Sex usually awes them into, when they occasionally attract the Eyes of a Multitude? Or, if it cou'd be suppos'd at such a time she had any Thought at all, might it not be imagin'd from the Indolence of her Post, and Air, she were then saying to her self—
Lawrd! How these Creatures love to gape at any thing, that is but an Empress; and yet what a Figure she'd make, if my spouse did not every year foolishly venture his catching Cold at the Head of her A--y? But, ex pede Herculem—
And now 'tis time to introduce her to the Empress in relation to Arthus: We must suppose, before she enter'd, the Secret of his being heav'd at, was whisper'd all about the Court; and that Portusatus's Discontent at his being yet continued had already reach'd the Empress's Ear, which last gave her more serious Thoughts, than all that Odolphus had been able to urge against him: And now in comes the Important *Hautisara* to heighten the Alarm; who after she had drawl'd out a thousand distant Hints to Engage the Empress upon that Subject, at last Learnedly broke out to this politick purpose—

Lawrd! Madam, how can your Majesty let Things run to these Extremities? You see how they declare against him— You know I told you of this, and are your Affairs now in a Condition to disoblige such people?
*You know, Madam, I never advis'd you wrong in my Life— And positively you can never be safe but in their Hands— You find what an Interest they have both at Home and Abroad— You see what they do for you— What a perfect understanding they have with the *Froglanders*— What vast Summs they give you, and how plainly they dispose of 'em, and yet you will break with them!*— *Lawrd! what can we do for you?*— *I have talk'd with my Lord Portusatus too, 'till he has really given me the Vapours— He positively says he can't go on— Things are all in Disorder— His Measures are broke— 'Twill be impossible for him to serve you— I thought he would have*

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have thrown me into Fits — — And that your Majesty should still think one Man so infinitely preferable to the Rest of your people, is to me — Lawrd! —

Thus with a shrug of submissive Astonishment she ended her Remonstrance, with the same important Monosyllable, that begun it, viz. — — Lawrd! What Reception it found may be imagin'd from the Frank Air of her delivering it. — — And this sort of Behaviour had now render'd her less agreeable to the Empress, whose every new Act of Bounty to her of late, only serv'd to wipe all the former out of her Memory; yet was her Vanity so elevated that she thought when she had a mind to any thing, her merit had a Right to draw an Order upon her Mistress's Indulgence — — But to proceed.

Scarce had the Eloquent *Hautisara* ended her Oration, when word was brought, that *Fortunatus* desir'd admittance, which Interruption soon overcame the Disgust the Empress could hardly conceal at that Lady's Behaviour — — The approach of *Fortunatus* (whose secret Discontent plainly broke through his outward Respect) gave the Empress apprehensions, that ev'n shook her Resolution for the support of *Arlus*, who, tho' she knew meant as well to her Interest, as *Fortunatus*, yet he cou'd not then be of equal Importance to it; the superior successes of one having much more Influence on the People, than all the other's Visible tho' less Glaring Virtues, of which the Empress was so sensible, that we may yet doubt, whether *Fortunatus* ow'd his prevailing against him more to his Art, or his Interest: *Fortunatus* too was equally Conscious of *Arlus*'s Intrinsick Merit to the Empress, and therefore was too wise to attack him as others had done, by a fruitless aspersion of his Integrity, but did it by artfully Charging his Remonstrance upon the unfortunate Necessity of her affairs to remove him: He therefore told her with what Reluctance he has reduc'd to offer a Thing, that he knew must be so hard and disagreeable to her Inclinations, and tho' no Consideration upon Earth could ever lessen his real Zeal to serve her Majesty, yet when the Means, the Power, and Basis of his service was destroy'd, 'twere but deceiving her to offer it, and it wou'd be then her interest, under such his incapacity, to discharge him from his Commands, which without the sure support of

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those People, who now had press'd him to this Extremity, it was demonstrable he cou'd no longer pretend to Execute — Then he farther beg'd leave, (not alas! as an Argument for her Compliance) but as he thought himself bound in Duty, to lay before her the Consequences of his so unavoidable, tho' unwilling Resignation — As first the Difficulties his Successor must pass in gaining such absolutely Necessary Confidence, and Power from her Allies, as they had been pleas'd to honour him with, and which their Natural Jealousy (tho' a Superior Merit might be urg'd) wou'd not easily repose in another, of whom their pretended dislike might be offered, as an Excuse for their accepting a Separate Peace, which wou'd not only Ruin the Trade and Credit of the Nation, but leave the Enemy in a formidable Condition, of bringing the War home to her own Doors, and insuiting her Crown with the Supported Claim of an Abjur'd Competitor — Here the Empress, with a Sigh, interrupting him, said, *My Lord, were I to part with you indeed, these Consequences I own, were unavoidable — But tell me — am I — am I reduc'd to such a hard Necessity? Must I endure the long Reproach of giving up — The Reflection's too severe —* At this her Heart grew full, and threw her into a silent pause, that spoke an inward Concern, which only such a Silence could express: At length a little clearing up her Looks, and turning to Fortunatus, she thus proceeded — *My Lord, I think I am safe, because, I find, I am in your Power; But I had rather now, metbinks, relije upon the Friend, than the Minister; Be then sincerely all the First, and help me in this Hardship! Suppose your self in my Dilemma, and tell me truly how you'd answer what you have now so warmly press'd me to consider.*

Fortunatus, Who was happy in the Art of pleasing, even with a Refusal, having now succeed to be himself her Judge, resolv'd at least to mingle Pity with his Sentence, and seeming touch'd with her Concern, made this Artful Answer —

This gentle Resignation, Madam, moves me to a soft Submission, that will undo you: For, who that's Honour'd with so generous a Trust can ever let his Heart be cool enough to see the danger of obeying you? 'Tis impossible, thus engag'd, to pronounce against your Wishes —

I am lost am vanquish'd by your Concern — and since your Peace requires it — Preserve the Injur'd Arlus in your Favour, and let me run the pleasing Risque of my Obedience — Thus, Madam, when honour'd with the Name of Friend, I must comply and might at worst deserve your Pardon for betraying you : But then there's a waking Conscience in severer Honour, that will be heard, that is not to be softned by the tendrest Siehs of Nature, that chides me for this weak submission, and bids my Virtue arm in your Defence — Madam, 'tis with the utmost Pain I mention it — but — forgive the Harshness of the Word — You must abandon Arlus, or those that only can support you —

But here in reverence, to the Secret Conflict of a Monarch's melting heart, 'tis fit to close the Scene by only adding, that in the silent Gushing of a Tear she Sign'd the long rejected Instrument of Arlus's Dismission from his Office.

Thus these Jealous, Overbearing Men rose from their Sovereign's Sight, the most Faithful, Vigilant, Disinterested, and (if it be Wisdom to deserve those Epithets) I may say, Wisest of her Ministers.

Arlus (who yet was unacquainted with the Modern way of working up Tools, or Knaves, to Insult their Sovereign with sawcy Remonstrances, upon her removing a Minister) receiv'd without a Murmur his Disgrace; yet was not unattended in his Fall. Three of the most considerable Offices (not then engross'd by the *Levellers*) being voluntarily resign'd on that Occasion; which Proofs of a Regard to *Arlus*, with the other Great, and Patient Merits that attended them, the Empress has since distinguish'd with Superior Marks of Honour.

And now the dreaded Rival of their Power remov'd, the *Quinquinvirate*, thought this little World their own ; they found the Reins of Government in their Hands, and by their furious Driving left us to guess, how far they had it in their Thoughts to overthrow the Power of their Sovereign : But before they set out, they consider'd, that the late Honour done to *Arlus*, in the Empress's so visible Reluctance to part with him, left him still dangerous, and that the Insulte they had done him, wou'd naturally revive her

her Inclination, on the first favourable Occasion, to re-call him, which threw 'em into this prudent Reflection, viz. That tho' ('was true) he was Remov'd, — yet — he was still *Alive*.

They therefore laid hold of a Critical Accident, which, if well manag'd, they did not doubt might Justify their Proceedings past, and wisely remove him from the World, and their future Fears for ever — The Treasonable Practices of a Clerk in *Arlus's* Office have made his Story too Publick to need a particular Recital; but the consummate Artifices us'd to involve *Arlus* himself in the Capital Infamy of being the Accomplice of his Guilt, deserve a Monumental Record to the harden'd Memory of the Under-takers. Could the severest Jealousy suppose a Wretch, that wou'd betray his Country to supply the Expences of a vicious Life, would not, to save that Life, and have his Wants reliev'd, as well confess another's Treason as his own? Or might not his Revenge provoke him (if in his Power) to produce some equal Proofs against *Arlus*, who had detected him? — Truly no! The Wretch indeed at his Execution did subscribe his Protestation of his Master's Innocence (*which by the way was Bashfully stifted for some time*) but to be sure he was put upon that by the Loyalists, who cunningly advis'd him to be hang'd, rather than humour the Levellers with a farther Discovery — And so this poor wheedled *Traitor*, it seems, dy'd a *Martyr* to his Fidelity: Yet this was to pass upon the Multitude, this was the Lesson impos'd on their mercenary Dependents to repeat in all publick Places, which indeed, among thinking Men, only serv'd to shew them as impotent as invidious in their Practices.

Arlus having surviv'd this merciless Storm, that blew so hard upon his Innocence, was now again at leisure to meditate his Sovereign and his Country's Service: He knew the *Quinquinvirate*, who ow'd their chief Support to the seeming Interest of the Lady *Hautisara* then in Favour, had built their Power on no durable Foundation, it being obvious to his Foresight, that that Lady, in the Restlessness of her Pride and Folly, wou'd, like a giddy Girl, soon break

break the Baby she had been so fond of, and strip them to their naked Original.

The intractable *Hautisara* now declining in her Lustre, *Arlus* quickly observ'd the Lady *Montia* was the rising Star, that wou'd succeed her, whose natural good Sense and Complacency of Temper gain'd every Hour upon the Inclinations of the Empress. With this Lady then (who was related to him) he made a prudent Confidence, which perhaps sometimes assisted his secret and sincere Endeavours for his Sovereign's Service: But the jealous *Hautisara*, impatient of a Rival, ev'n in those Favours she was now grown too proud and lazy to deserve, after several meer Woman's Marks of her ineffectual Spleen, resolv'd to spring a Mine should bury her for Ever. To which end she insinuated to the *Quinquvirate* (whose equal Fears of her needed but few Arguments to inflame them) that *Montia* had taken the Cards out of *Arlus*'s Hand, and was now playing on the Game he had been seemingly forc'd to give up: That in short, if some sudden Expedient was not found to remove her, she could not promise she should be much longer in humour to support them. Upon which her learned Kinsman *Librarius* stood up, and (after working himself into a huge passion) made a wonderful Speech, which sagaciously ended in a clinching Motion, that the Empress should be address'd---- As well in regard to Her own Safety, as their humble Will and Pleasure, not to suffer any Servant, whom

whom they cou'd not abide, to stick a single Pin about her Royal Person, for fear they should Traiterously prick her.

This Loyal Address (which is not the more modest for its being Ridiculous) was carry'd *Nemine Contradicente*: But the Empress forewarn'd of it, was too far concern'd not to prevent the insult of its being publickly offer'd her; and therefore gently precaution'd them, that unless they made it appear more reasonable, or necessary to the Good of the Nation, she should be oblig'd to reject it. Not but we must think the very private Proposal gave her too just an Apprehension of their farther Insolencies and incroaching Power, of which this blundering Instance was not dropt without another of much the same Species to succeed it: But now their infectious Presumption had spread higher even the Head of their Fainted Body, *Fortunatus* himself was changed with it, who throwing off his usual Air of Softness, that never fail'd to meet Compliance from his Sovereign, seem'd to set himself in her Chair, and Magisterially insisted on his Right of disposing a Command, in opposition to the unquestion'd Merit of the Person, whom her peculiar Inclination

tion (I had almost said) recommended to it; which upon the Empress's not immediately giving up, he sullenly left the Court, till he had reduc'd her by his ostentatious Uneasiness to an equal Abatement of her Power, and to give it, by a mutual Consent, to a third Person. This Faithful insult offer'd to his Sovereign to endear'd the Hearty *Fortunatus* to the *Quinquinvirate*, and their Dependants, that they thought themselves bound in arrogant Gratitude to make him a Present of a large Limb of the Empress's Prerogative, viz. by procuring an irresistible Address to make him General for Life. This indeed had mettle in it, and came very near up to the Gratitude of their Fore-Fathers, who, because they scorn'd to be beholden to any Man, made their General a Present of their Liberty, and afterwards created him *Absolute Monarch* in the Nick-name of a *Protector*.--- But upon feeling the Pulses of their Party, our *Quinquinvirate* found their Project Impracticable.

Now tho' they found these large Strides had made their Power sufficiently Formidable at Court, yet they seem'd at a Loss for a publick Occasion to assert it with equal Terror to the rest of the Nation: which Occasion Fortune soon after

after threw into their Hands, by giving them a Pretence of demanding Justice, against a Priest for High Faults and Misbehaviours; In presuming in a Sermon to take the advantage of the yet unrepealed Laws of the Land, to insult the Subjects Right of Resistance, by maliciously reviving the inconvenient Doctrine of passive Obedience (in things lawful) to their Sovereign, &c.

Another Article of his Charge, was his endeavouring to insinuate, that some persons then in high Stations and Places were doing wrong things, &c. by which things being actually true they prov'd, that he could mean only the Ministers.----- But that they could easily stand, since at the same time, it gave them an Occasion to let the World see, that whoever pretended to censure their Conduct, might as safely comb the Beard of a Lyon. During the Trial, this Slaveish Doctrine of Obedience, &c. was so valiantly Hack'd and Hew'd by their flashing Harangues, that a stranger would have took them for meer Hussars of Government, that were for plundering the Crown, and supporting themselves with the Spoils of its Prerogative. Thus even in the Face of their Sovereign, they asserted their Fellow-Subjects Right of Resisting their

their Prince, and dutifally limited their Impli-
cite Obedience to their Ministrations, wresting
even the Holy Scripture to their Tenets, by
granting, while in their Hands, that every Soul
ought to be subject to the Higher Power. But
this, it seems, according to Tacitus, is an old
piece of Policy.

*Ut Imperium pervertant, Libertatem
proferunt, cum perverterunt, Ipsam
aggrediuntur.*

No wonder therefore, if, while these Prin-
ciples were maintain'd with so menacing an
Air, it shock'd several of the Nobles, to
whose Honour the Sentence of this Criminal
was refer'd : Who, tho' they were not strong
enough wholly to acquit him, prevail'd at
least to lessen the Triumph of his Accusers by
the moderation of his Punishment.

Here I can't omit the merry Blunder of
the Mob on this Occasion, who unfortunate-
ly contriv'd to get themselves paradoxically
clapt into Prison for their Rebellious Dis-
obedience in too warmly declaring round a
Bonfire for the Doctor and Non-Resistance.

Another thing too is worthy of equal Notice, which is (for the Devil shall have his Due) that some of the Learned Orators, whose Wit at the Tryal had gallop'd before their Judgment, had it seems Modesty enough to geld the most mettlesome part of their Speeches before they were printed, and have decency given them to the publick with more good Breeding than they were deliver'd : But I am well assur'd, that there is a sincere Edition of their Zeal (as it was taken hot from their Mouths) now in the press, which will shew the World the fair and full Measure of their Eloquence and Temper.

And now let us consider the true Meaning of this mighty Bustle---- Was it worth the postponing all the Business in the Nation, and employing the whole Body of the Legislative power for above twenty Days, in fighting a drawn Battle of Opinions about an insignificant Tool of a party? No sure, their own Confessions allow that was not all they propos'd by it : But to take this solemn and glorious Opportunity of insulting the Throne in Form of Law, to assert and enlarge the Bounds of the Subjects Liberty, by trampling down the ancient Fences of the prerogative, to terrify the quiet part of the people, by shewing them, that even the Innocent were unsafe in their Displeasure. These indeed were considerations not to be slighted, and to have slighted so critical a season of pursuing them, might have encourag'd the Empress, and her people so think, that no Set of Men in Authority could ever be bold enough to invade the Fundamentals of their Constitution. However, it most unfortunately happen'd, that this furious prosecution had

had the very Reverse Effect of what their party propos'd from it : For instead of humbling, it universally spirited the Nation into a vigorous Opposition of their Measures, and a resolute Defence of their church, prince and constitution : Which grateful Declaration, soon reviv'd the Empress's long thwarted Inclination to the Loyalists, and encourag'd her freely to unbosom her self to some few faithful Servants she could depend on, in order to redress at once the peoples Grievances and her own, which now, in Addresses from all parts, were openly remonstrated : And tho' nothing has been more ridicul'd than the Sincerity of Addresses, yet by the consonant choice the Good people have since made of their Representatives, we are convinc'd, that this time at least they have kept their Words, and that Addresses may sometimes speak the sense of the Nation. Of which both Odolphus and the Quinquinvirate were so truly sensible, that they now thought it high time to be wise, and therefore privately offer'd to sell one another : But (tho' we might have had either of 'em a pennyworth) they were both so unfortunate, as not to meet with a Chapman.

This then was the important Crisis, which the patient Arlus had long foreseen; and expected to consummate his meritorious Scheme of redeeming his Sovereign from the private Ambition of a few Men, by turning the Stream of Government into its proper Channel.

And now, from these recited Instances the Cause of our sick'ning Constitution thus visible, what honest Heart can be alarm'd at the Remedy.

dy? What Course on Earth remain'd for our weaken'd Sovereign to take, but shaking off these insatiate Leeches from her bleeding Prerogative? Whose selfish Nature nothing better can describe, than the malignant, tho' ineffectual Artifices of their Reluctance to disgorge their Power. No sooner was the first of the *Quinquin-virate* dropt, but immediately the Jobbers of the Publick Credit were dispatch'd with a notable Remonstrance to the Empress, of the terrible Confusion that must attend the Nation, if she threw off any more before their Bellies were Full: And not wholly depending on their Mechanical Courage, they reinforc'd these Insinuations with a presumptuous Memorial from the *Froglanders*, to the same little, or no purpose. But when the idoliz'd *Odolpus* fell, then, Mercy on us! our Ruin was inevitable! *Fortunatus* had lost his chief Support, was now in the Hands of his Enemies, cou'd be no longer safe, was reduc'd to lay down his Command, and leave the poor helpless Army to shift for themselves! For on the single Credit of *Odolpus*, the Nations only had subsisted, and to his Management of our Treasure, our well-paid Soldiers ow'd their Victories, who now of course must Mutiny, or Desert us! Indeed these zealous Partizots did all they cou'd to bring these Matters about, not only by scattering their Poisonous, Insolent, and Question-begging Quarries at Home, but even spitting their Venome to the Camp, by sending their Mercenaries from Tent to Tent

to tell the Officers with a frightful Shrug, that this, they fear'd, wou'd be the last Subsistence they shou'd ever pay 'em : Now I am not Master enough of the Law to tell you, what sort of Crime this will amount to, when 'tis prov'd upon 'em here at Home : But I remember that even in this dreaded Ebb of our Credit, the New Directors of our Treasure found immediate means to advance the Army four Months Subsistence ; a Provision which *Odolphus* was never able to make, tho' while he held the white Wand, the Weekly Witts of his Party cry'd him up for a *Conjuror* : If these Gentlemen wou'd have satisfied us that they were Patriots in their Hearts, they wou'd have dutifullly Submitted (as let me say *Arlus* did) to the Empress's Pleasure in removing them, and would have convinc'd her and the Nation of their Integrity, by endeavouring to Silence, and Discountenance the Seditious Clamours against the Rightful Use of her Power, by endeavouring to support the Publick Credit, by coming into the Honest Measures of the New Ministry ; or at least staying for a Crime before they condemn'd them : But these; alas ! were Resentments too Tame and Dishonourable, for Men of their elevated Spirits ! No ! they wou'd make short Work, and (*cont que cont*) wou'd positively insist, that the Nation was undone, if the Empress was thus *Indulg'd in her Fancy* of Ruling without them : And yet it has been the Misfortune of these Puissant Heroes, not to have

one Shot from all the Fire of their Insinuations take place; nay we have not yet heard that *Fox-mas* himself has thought them so absolutely Necessary to his Support, as to be frighted out of his Post by their Removal; so far from it, that he acquiesces in the Will and Pleasure of his Sovereign, and is contented by being a little eas'd in Disposing our Affairs at Home, to use his greater Leisure in minding his sufficient Business Abroad, and I don't question from his past Successes, that he will yet frighten our Enemies into an Honourable Peace, if during the next Treaty, he keeps at the Head of his Hundred Thousand Plenipotentiaries.

And now, Loving Country Men on both Sides, I shall take my leave with only one Observation, which, when you are not out of Humour, may perhaps be of Use: You know the two Grand Objections against the *Loyalists* and the *Levellers*: are, That the first is for giving ~~too much Power~~ to their Prince, and the other ~~too little~~ Now how can we better Judge which of these Principles are the least Dangerous, than from Experience? Then give me leave to observe, that, since the Foundation of our Monarchy, the only Fatal Instance of our losing our Liberty was from our taking up Arms against our King to secure it: From whence I would infer, that till our Histories can charge the same Calamity upon the Supporters of the Prerogative, we ought to allow the Principle of the *Loyalists* less Dangerous, than the *Levellers*.

F I N I S.